

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 *Sub G2* 1. Peripheral unit management system for managing a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units has a serial number and a unique ID number to distinguish it from other peripheral units and is connected to the network for communication between the manager and the peripheral units, comprising:
- 10       a unit for determining whether or not one of the peripheral units has been replaced by communicating with the respective peripheral units and reading respective serial numbers and ID numbers of the peripheral units, and
- 15       a unit for obtaining new data of a peripheral unit when the determining unit determines that the peripheral unit has been replaced, or reusing data being accumulated in another peripheral unit when the determining unit determines that the peripheral unit has not been replaced.
- 20       2. Peripheral unit management system according to claim 1, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body having a first recording medium that records a serial number and a board having a second recording medium that records an ID number, the board can be
- 25       inserted to and removed from the body and performs a connecting function to the network thereby enabling it to transmit the serial number and the ID number over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads the serial number and the ID number and
- 30       determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced or not.
- 35       3. Peripheral unit management system according to claim 1, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body not having a recording medium that records a serial number and a board having a first recording medium that records a serial number and a second recording medium that records an ID number, the board can be inserted to

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and removed from the body and performs a connecting function to the network thereby enabling it to transmit the serial number and the ID number over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads  
5 the serial number after the serial number has been set by an operational panel either of its own or of the peripheral unit and reads the ID number of the peripheral unit, and determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

10 4. Peripheral unit management method for managing a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network wherein each of the plurality of peripheral units has a serial number and a unique ID number to distinguish it from other peripheral units and  
15 is connected to the network for communication between the manager and the peripheral units, comprising the steps of:

communicating with the respective  
peripheral units and reading respective serial numbers  
20 and ID numbers of the peripheral units,

determining whether or not one of the  
peripheral units has been replaced based on the  
respective serial numbers and the ID numbers of the  
peripheral units,

25 obtaining new data of a peripheral unit when it is determined that the peripheral unit has been replaced in the determining step, and

reusing data having been accumulated in  
another peripheral unit when it is determined that the  
30 peripheral unit has not been replaced in the determining step.

5. Peripheral unit management method according to claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body having a first recording medium that records a  
35 serial number and a board having a second recording medium that records an ID number, the board can be inserted to and removed from the body and performs a

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connecting function to the network thereby enabling it to transmit the serial number and the ID number over the network, and the method further comprising the steps of:

5                   reading the serial number and the ID  
number when the board is replaced, and  
                  determining whether or not the main body  
of the peripheral unit has been replaced or not.

6.   Peripheral unit management method according to  
claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main  
10   body not having a recording medium that records a serial  
number and a board having a first recording medium that  
records a serial number and a second recording medium  
that records an ID number, the board can be inserted to  
and removed from the body and performs a connecting  
15   function to the network thereby enabling it to transmit  
the serial number and the ID number over the network, and  
the method further comprising the steps of:

                  reading the serial number and the ID  
number of the peripheral unit, after the serial number  
20   has been set by an operational panel either of its own or  
of the peripheral unit when the board is replaced, and  
                  determining whether or not the main body  
of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

7.   Recording medium readable by a computer and  
25   used for a peripheral unit management method for managing  
a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit  
manager via a network wherein each of the plurality of  
peripheral units has a serial number and a unique ID  
number to distinguish it from other peripheral units and  
30   is connected to the network for communication between the  
manager and the peripheral units, said medium having a  
program recorded thereon for making the computer execute  
the steps of:

                  communicating with the respective  
35   peripheral units and reading respective serial numbers  
and ID numbers of the peripheral units,  
                  determining whether or not one of the

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peripheral units has been replaced based on the  
respective serial numbers and the ID numbers of the  
peripheral units,

- 5 obtaining new data of a peripheral unit  
when the determining unit determined that the peripheral  
unit has been replaced, and

reusing data being accumulated in another  
peripheral unit when the determining unit determined that  
the peripheral unit has not been replaced.

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